

might be said elsewhere, he knew that " the
certain persons
whom he held in high esteem" had nothing
to do with
the affair.

On the other hand, some minor literary men
adhered to
the protest, and the incident was so sedulously
exaggerated
by Zola's enemies that one might have
imagined the mani-
festo had come from novelists of high
reputation instead of
from beginners, who, with the exception of
Bonnetain, had
not yet half-won their spurs. The affair has
been related
in some detail here, first because a kind of
legend has
gathered round it, a legend repeated in many
of the me-
moirs issued after Zola's death, and secondly
because it
ultimately had a notable result: the
nomination of Zola as
a knight of the Legion of Honour.

Before recounting how that occurred it
must be men-
tioned that " La Terre" was published in
volume form late
in 1887.¹ The attacks made upon it ever since
the so-called
"Manifesto of the Five" then acquired yet
greater in-
tensity, which a little later was checked
somewhat by the
uproar attending the decorations scandal in
which President
Grevy's son-in-law was implicated, followed by
the Presi-
dent's resignation, the election of Carnot, and
the increase
of the Boulangist propaganda. However, at
every pause in
that turmoil the denunciation of Zola began

afresh.

It was still going on when M. Edmond Lockroy, who had known the novelist in the old days of "Le Eappel," became

¹ "L& Terre," Paris, Charpentier, 1887, 18mo, 519 pages. Some copies on Japan, Dutch, and India paper. One hundredth thousand in 1893; one hundred and thirty-fifth thousand in 1903. Illustrated edition : Marpon and Fltmaancm, n. d., large 8vo, 472 pages ; wood-engravings after Duez, ^egro^ etc.; one hundred and fifty copies on Dutch paper with tho engravings on India paper.